Increasing sea level

2682. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as per the latest reports the rising sea level will trigger huge exodus and will displace millions from Chennai and Mumbai;

(b) whether scientists of IIT Madras have warned that melting of ice from glaciers and Antarctica will have huge impact on Indian environment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the data/advice that has been provided by the scientists and what Government is doing to alleviate fears of inhabitants of coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government is aware of the implication of the sea level rise due to projected climate change. Observations recorded by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)/Department of Space (DOS) on the mean sea level along the Indian coast show a long-term rising trend of about 1 millimeter (mm)/year. The recent data suggests a rising trend of 2.5 mm/year in the sea-level along Indian coastline.

(b) to (d) IIT Madras has not published any report indicating an adverse impact of the melting of ice from glaciers and Antarctica on Indian environment.

However, Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which brings out report on assessment of climate change based on peer reviewed scientific work world wide, has released three reports, the last of which has been released in May 2007, containing scientific data in this regard.

Government set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May, 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and identify the measures needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts and any other matter relevant to these. Three meetings of the Committee have been held.

Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change was constituted on 6th June 2007 to evolve a coordinate response to issues relating to climate change at the national level and provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Council has decided, *inter alia,* to prepare a National Action Plan on Climate Change to address the challenges of climate change.

Restriction by National Biodiversity Authority

2683. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) on collection and export of a few specimens for research by scientists associated with entomology;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of request submitted for same and action taken on it, for last three years, year-wise, category-wise;

(d) if not, whether steps would be taken to allow scientist working in India to seek the help of other scientists working elsewhere of the world for identification of specimens with modern amenities that are not available in India; and